

explains. It is during school life that the child has the best chance of being physically developed, as so much is now done in the way of drill in the playground, manual training and swimming. The good effect of this is, however, to a great extent spoilt by the home conditions—drill without breakfast cannot perfect physical development, and when this is repeated after a dinner of a "slice" and tea is it not possible to do more harm than good? The fact that the child is seldom in its home perhaps prevents matters being worse than they are—spare hours are generally spent in the streets, and there the true child-nature comes out. Hop-scotch, skipping, leap-frog, or whatever is "in season" is played with great energy, to say nothing of the excitement of climbing up forbidden ladders or running after carts. Here the boys come off best, as the mothers are only too glad to get them out of the way, while they often keep the girls at home to do the housework. "I can't come out with you on Saturday; I shall have my work," was the answer given by an undersized child of eleven to an invitation, and when we inquired what the "work" was we were told that it was scrubbing. "I was just doing the cooking," said a mite of eight to a visitor the other day; "mother is in bed with a new little brother." School-life and freedom end when the child is fourteen—then he leaves school and considers himself grown-up. He goes into a factory and spends the whole day there sitting or standing from 8 a.m. until 7 or 8 p.m. Again the boy comes off better physically, as there are many jobs, such as messengers, telegraph boys, van-boys, etc., where the life is an outdoor one, and his health does not suffer so severely as the girl's. This is a picture of child-life as one sees it generally in Hoxton. You will naturally ask what is being done to improve matters. Something is being done in the way of hygiene lectures, crèches for the children of working mothers, meals for school children, etc., but the difficulties are still tremendous.

There are cases which are even worse than those I have pictured, and on the other hand there are those whose children are well cared for and whose homes would be worthy of a P.N.E.U. mother, but these are few and far
M. CONDER.

STUDENTS' LETTERS.

WE have really been very fortunate as regards the weather this term. To-day is the first whole wet day we have had. Our first Saturday we were able to have a long half. On October 13th, Mrs. Henry Fawcett spoke on "Woman Suffrage" in the Assembly Rooms, and any student who wished might go. It was very interesting. Mrs. Fawcett was most convincing in her arguments, and reasonable in her demands. On October 20th, Ian Hambourg, the brother of the great pianist, Mark Hambourg, paid a visit to Amble-side. Unfortunately the house was almost empty; in fact, there were hardly fifty people there. He played first Beethoven's famous "Kreutzer" sonata, and for encore the charming "Humoreske" (Dvorak). His technique was very fine, especially in the second movement of Mendelssohn's concerto, which gives such ample scope.

I am sure everyone will be pleased to know we have our motto, "For the Children's Sake," beautifully painted and hung in the class-room over Mr. Roper's portrait. One of the present (Miss Hart) Seniors did it during the summer holidays, and presented it to Miss Mason.

Owing to a leakage in the drains we were all packed off home last Saturday week. It was a novel way of spending half-term, and we returned last Saturday fresh and ready again to take up our work.
M. K. G.

NATURE WALKS.

THIS term the Fall of the Leaf, Seed Dispersion, and Fungi have been the chief objects of interest during the Nature Walks. The autumnal tints have been glorious, and the

trees have retained their foliage later than usual; but the frosts of last week-end brought nearly all the leaves down to the ground. We have found some lovely fungi, the "Agaricus muscarius," "Agaricus semilanceatus," "Agaricus ulmarius," "Russula emetica," "Clavaria fusiformis," "Auricularia mesenterica," etc.

There are eighty-one flowers on the list for this month, and some Nature Note-books have 450 for the year.

At the beginning of the month the "Bird Walk" saw a kingfisher by the Brathay, and had a good view of him for four minutes before he darted up-stream. Some students also saw a buzzard flying over the Rydal Road. Redwings and field fares were seen a few weeks ago on the top of Nab Scar. We have been on the look-out for twites, but so far Miss Kitching has been the only fortunate one.

P. C. NEVITT-BENNETT.

THE LAST STRUGGLE.

OUR flower list had reached 390. It was October, and the chances of arriving at 400 seemed very small. Could we—would it be possible to find ten fresh flowers in any of our haunts which had been visited so often. Well, it simply must be done. So one afternoon was spent tramping through the woods, and back by the river and marshes.

We counted forty different kinds of flowers, but none were new. Next time the goal was a big waste field not far from the works, which was one of our pet places. There we found to our great joy one fresh flower—391—nine more to find.

Next day, when walking along the lane, we found growing on a bank, Clary—392—eight more to find. About forty miles away there is a famous bog, and also salt marshes, where we knew all kinds of wonderful things were to be found, and better still, not far from that bog there lived an Ambleside student whom we looked upon as a kind of magician who could conjure up all kinds of fresh and rare flowers!

The magician promised to meet us. Dad and Mum gave up the motor for the day, and even the sun seemed to be anxious to favour our enterprise, and shone out brightly. Our anxiety was intense, and great were the wonderings on the way there whether we would find any fresh flowers, and many resolves were made to bear disappointments bravely! First we went to the bog, and were not long there till we found several fresh flowers—"Autumn Gentian," "Dwarf Furze." Then off to the Salt Marshes, where there was "Sea Artemisia" growing. On the road we stopped to look at "Catmint," and near a sandy hill we found "Lesser Snapdragon," "Knawell," "Dwarf Spurge," "Basil Thyme," and "Canada Fleabare," which brought our list up to 401—one safely over the required number. It was dusk by this time, so we all went back for tea with contented hearts and great sighs of relief. When we arrived home everybody greeted us with: "Well, how many?" "What success?" Our treasures were shown to all admiring friends, and now we are turning our attention to fungi and winter migrants.

NOTES ON CRITICISM LESSONS GIVEN CHRISTMAS, 1908.

I.—Subject: *English History, Class III. Time 30 minutes.*

The lesson was upon "The Mutiny of the Fleet" and the Battles of the Nile and Camperdown (Arnold Foster). An extract was read from Knight, giving a fuller account of the Battle of the Nile.

Sketch maps of the Bay of Aboukir were given the girls in which they placed the French and English ships in line of battle.

The lesson was interesting, but wanting in imagination.

II.—Subject: *Literature (Tennyson), Class IV. Time 40 minutes.*

Lesson opened with a short account of the life and works of Tennyson. Extracts from the following poems were

read: "The Princess," "Sir Galahad," "Two Voices," and "Spring." Readings were taken from "The Life of Tennyson," written by his son.

Appreciations of Tennyson were read from Stopford Brooke and Palgrave.

The summary of Tennyson's life was good, and the readings were well chosen, but there was a lack of personal interest and enthusiasm in the lesson.

IV.—Subject: Picture talk, "Landscape with Cottages," by Corot, Class IB. Time 15 minutes.

Teacher spoke a little about Corot, especially dwelling upon his love for nature. A study of the picture was followed by a drawing from memory in charcoal of the children's favourite object. The subject of the picture was made living by comparison with objects in this neighbourhood. The idea of the colouring of the original picture was not given.

V.—Subject: Physiology, "The Structure of the Eye," Class III. Time 35 minutes.

The lesson was arranged under the following headings:—

1. Protection and movement of the eye.
2. Structure of the eyeball.
3. Accommodation.

Blackboard drawings and diagrams from books illustrated the lesson. A camera was shown to compare its structure with that of the eye, further practical demonstrations with lenses and a candle.

The lesson was very interesting, but was too much of a lecture. The narration was poor, but might have been aided if the various headings of the lesson had been left on the board. The practical demonstrations aroused great interest.

K. M. R.

DRAWING-ROOM EVENINGS.

The first Tuesday of this term we had a most interesting Drawing-room Evening Paper on the history of *Punch*. The

origin of the name, and the history of the paper, including the various designs for the cover, the various contributors, both literary and artistic, the famous *Punch* dinners, were all clearly told, accompanied by many amusing anecdotes. Several extracts were read from old numbers of the paper. This delightful paper was unfortunately cut short by the prayer bell.

The following week an appeal was made to our musical sense (sixth one), to counteract any risibility caused by the previous paper. This proved to be a most enjoyable evening spent in the atmosphere of Schubert's music. An appreciative paper was read, and several of the artist's compositions were well rendered, among which were the famous Sonata in A Minor, an Impromptu, and Prelude, etc.

Unfortunately, Jan Hambourg's concert occurred on the same evening that a paper was read on Milton, so that the usual numbers were not present. The paper was not very long, but very interesting. Extracts were read from "Paradise Lost," "Comas," "Lycidas."

We then had a very original and delightful paper on "Galloway." The origin of the name and the geographical position and ancient history were first dealt with. Then some delightful smuggling stories and legends, dealing with the old superstitions were read. The history of All Hallow E'en customs; interesting anecdotes of famous characters of the district were given. Extracts descriptive of the scenery were read from Crocket's "Lilac Sunbonnet" and "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Gallawa." Songs on the same subject were rendered.

We thought Mr. Parez would be tired after the morning's work, so we postponed a paper on Watts, and arranged an impromptu concert for Thursday evening. We had a varied programme of pianoforte solos and songs. By special request Fräulein Grimm declaimed our old favourite, "The Fugitives." In conclusion there were three coon

songs sung in parts, which Mr. Parez seemed to enjoy quite as much as the students.

H. C. B.

HOCKEY AT SCALE HOW.

UNDER the supervision of Miss Monteith and our Captain, Miss Biggar, our hockey has begun to assume a more professional attitude this term. At present we play on the football field, near Waterhead. This ground is rather a long way off, so we generally begin the game at 2.30 and stop at 3.30 or 3.35. We have all been commanded to procure *short* skirts, and if possible to wear white blouses and our College ties. The first time we played we found a horse and four cows in possession of the field. After chasing them into the corners, off the ground, we began to play, but they still seemed to retain their interest in the game, and we had to have a second chase. One cow would hover round our hats, which were hanging on a fence. We felt quite anxious about them!

We generally play on Monday and Thursday, and try to arrange a match for Wednesday. So far we have only had one match—English *v.* Scotch. The result was a draw, two all. During the first half the English shot their two goals, and in the second half the Scotch caught them up.

The ground leaves something to be desired! The grass rather resembles a jungle. The goal circles are a little large, and the twenty-five line is a little conspicuous by its absence. But, in spite of all, we thoroughly enjoy our hockey.

R. HART.

POETRY CLUB.

THIS term Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Lowell have been chosen by the majority. The first choice is no doubt influenced by the fact that the Extension Lectures we are now attending are on Browning. Last year's Seniors will be delighted to hear that Mr. Holborn has again been elected Extension Lecturer for this district.

We are enjoying a delightful course on the simpler aspects of Robert Browning. Mr. Holborn has printed in the syllabuses a list of poems at the end of each lecture, which we read together at our Poetry Club. We have as yet only had two meetings, owing to our unexpected congé at half-term. The first Saturday—October 10th—the following poems were read:—"Ivan Ivanovitch," "How they brought the good news from Aix to Ghent," and "Porphyria's Lover." Miss Paterson, the President of the Poetry Club, also gave us a short account of the poet's life. The next meeting, on October 27th, was especially interesting, as Mrs. Franklin's inspiring paper on "Citizenship" was read, an address which she delivered to the United Society of Women Workers at Aberdeen. Afterwards we read a little Browning, viz., "Popularity," "The Last Ride Together," "Master Hugues of Saxe-Gotha," "The Glove," "Harvé Riel," and "House."

MR. PAREZ'S VISIT.

ONE of the important events of the year, *i.e.*, Mr. Parez's visit, fortunately took place before our sudden departure last week from Scale How.

Mr. Parez arrived Tuesday, November 3rd, and that evening the Seniors gave him a drill and dancing display in St. George's. We were all arrayed in our short Swedish drill costumes, which we also wore for the dancing.

Miss Monteith gave us a very nice table of exercises. The dancing comprised Irish jig, some exercises, and some of us tried Strathspey, but were not very successful. Last of all came a very pretty and graceful Morris dance.

We were all in a state of anxiety to know what our lessons would be, and just before the drill began, Miss Henderson came in with the list. Most of the Seniors

seemed quite satisfied with the choice. The following is a list of the lessons chosen:—

Bennett, Botany (seed dispersal), Class III.; Biggar, French, Class II.; Clendinnen, Geology, Class III.; Cooper, Latin, Class II.; Courtney, Geography (Ceylon), Class II.; Crayden, Tales, Class I.; Evans, Physiology (the ear), Class III.; Glasscott, German, Class IV.; Haggie, Everyday Morals (the will), Class IV.; Hart, Lloyd, Class III.; Henderson, English Language, Class IV.; James, Number (introduce number 10), Class Ia.; Lorimer, Geography (Switzerland), Class Ib.; Murray, Dictation, Class II.; Norris, Latin, Class IV.; Paterson, History, Class I.; Robotham, French, Class IV.; Vine, Practical Geometry, Class II.; Winter, Scripture, Class III.

That afternoon we went to the Browning Lecture, and in the evening Mr. Bentley gave us an arithmetic class on ratio, proportion, and commission. Mr. Perez was present. Later in the evening Mr. Yates gave us his delightful Millet Lecture, which he addressed particularly to the children. Thursday morning Mr. Perez came into all the classes. One hour was given up to the reading tests. We had to read in turn from "Paradise Lost," and Matthew Arnold's essay on "Criticism." The French play took place that afternoon. The Juniors did *Les précieuses Ridicules*, and it really was excellently well played. The stage and costumes were beautifully designed, and one lady remarked she quite thought she was back in Paris. In the evening we had an impromptu Musical Soirée.

Mr. Perez left the next morning.

W. A. L.